

MSC Guidelines for Review of Fire Load Calculations

Procedure Number: H2-23

Revision Date: 05/05/00

References

- a. Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 9-97 "Guide to Structural Fire Protection", Chapter 7
- b. 46 CFR 116.427 and definitions in Part 114 of Subchapter K
- c. Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 8-93 "Equivalent Alternatives to 46 Subchapter H Requirements Related to Means of Escape, Safe Refuge Areas, and Main Vertical Zone Length"

Disclaimer

These guidelines were developed by the Marine Safety Center staff as an aid in the preparation and review of vessel plans and submissions. They were developed to supplement existing guidance. They are not intended to substitute or replace laws, regulations, or other official Coast Guard policy guidance. The responsibility to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations still rests with the plan submitter. The Coast Guard and the U. S. Department of Transportation expressly disclaim liability resulting from the use of this document.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center by e-mail or phone. Please refer to the Procedure Number: H2-23.

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General Note

Fire load calculations are not the same as combustible volume calculations. Fire load calculations include all the combustibles within the space, not just the wall and ceiling linings. The Marine Safety Center reviews the fire load calculations and marks them "Examined." Final approval is granted by the cognizant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) who verifies the actual arrangement of the spaces.

General Review Guidance

Submit fire load calculations for all spaces required by references (a), (b) and (c) plus any additional spaces specified by the OCMI.

Ensure calculations are only for individual spaces separated by proper fire boundaries.

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The calculated fire loads for all spaces must be within the appropriate limits specified in references (a), (b) and (c).

Ensure the accuracy of the area measurement for each space.

Ensure the accuracy of all weights.